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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Great Basin National Park News Release

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Great Basin National Park to Host Events for the Annular Solar Eclipse and Transit of Venus.

On May 20, 2012 Great Basin National Park will be in the path for the spectacular annular solar eclipse and will be hosting programs and an observing party to view this event at the Great Basin Visitor Center in Baker, NV. Starting at 3:00PM (PDT) Great Basin's "Dark" Rangers and renowned astronomer educator Vic Maris will conduct public programs and family friendly events leading up to the beginning of the eclipse at 5:20PM (PDT). The eclipse will be at its maximum annularity at 6:30PM (PDT).

The park will have many solar safe telescopes for public viewing of the eclipse and solar safe glasses will be sold in the visitor centers.

In addition, at 3:00PM (PDT) on June 5, 2012 we will be hosting a Transit of Venus observing party to watch this historic event when Venus passes directly between earth and the sun. We see this distant planet as a small dot gliding slowly across the face of the sun. Historically, this rare alignment is how we measured the size of our solar system.

The park will have many solar safe telescopes for public viewing of the eclipse and solar safe glasses will be sold in the visitor centers.

To find out more information about these and all upcoming astronomy programs, take a look at the Great Basin National Park website at <http://www.nps.gov/grba>.

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